AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0011] with the following amended paragraph:

[0011]

Nonwoven Fabric Sheet

The nonwoven fabric sheet according to the present invention is produced by press molding the above-described nonwoven fabric and has a porosity in the range of 0.3 to 0.7 and a maximum pore size in the range of 0.5 μm to 5.0 μm. Preferably, the nonwoven fabric sheet according to the present invention further has a "maximum pore size (μm)/average pore size (μm)" ratio of 1.30 or lower.

Porosity is a ratio of a volume of voids to the total volume of a nonwoven fabric composed of resin material and voids, represented by the equation: porosity = 1 – basis weight (g/m^2)/[density of fiber $\cancel{(g/m^3)}$ (g/cm^3) × thickness of nonwoven fabric (μm)]. A maximum pore size is the maximum value of pore diameter in a nonwoven fabric sheet, and an average pore size is an average of the diameters of all pores in a nonwoven fabric sheet.

The maximum pore size and average pore size of the nonwoven fabric sheet according to the present invention are determined by measuring the pore size of the nonwoven fabric with a Coulter Porometer (manufactured by Coulter Electronics Ltd.). Measurement with the Coulter Porometer was performed in accordance with ASTM E1294-89. A maximum pore size, an average pore size, and the like, of a sheet sample can be determined by this method. The method is specifically conducted as described below. A sample is wetted with a standard liquid. The wetted sample, completely wetted with the liquid having a low surface tension and a low vapor pressure, is set in a sample holder and subjected to measurement. When pressure is applied from one side of the sheet, the standard liquid in the sheet is released by air pressure to empty the pores and air flow is generated. As the pressure is continuously increased and the pores in the sheet are continuously emptied, the air flow passing through the sheet is recorded as a function of the pressure supplied.

A point where the first air flow with a certain volume is generated is recognized as a bubble point (maximum pore size). The operation is continued until the size of the pore size reaches the smallest detectable level. Data thus obtained is compared with the data of air flow rate versus air pressure obtained in a dried sheet. A pore size distribution is obtained from the curve under wet condition and the curve under dry condition, from which an average pore size is obtained. POROFIL (trade name, manufactured by Coulter Electronics Ltd.) or the like is used as the standard liquid.

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025]

(1) Fiber diameter (μm)

Fibers were photographed with an electron microscope, diameters of 50 fibers were measured, and an average of the diameters was calculated.

(2) Basis weight ~~(g/cm^3)~~ (g/m^2)

A test specimen of 100 mm × 100 mm was taken and weighed, and the weight per m^2 was calculated.

(3) Membrane thickness (μm)

Membrane thicknesses of nine samples that were used for the measurement of basis weight were measured with a digital thickness meter in accordance with JIS Z1702, and an average was calculated.

(4) Porosity

Densities of fibers were determined in accordance with ASTM D1505. Porosity was calculated from the following equation:

Porosity = 1 − basis weight/(density of fiber × thickness)

Please replace paragraph [0037] with the following amended paragraph:

[0037]

(Table 1)

	Example	Comparative example

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	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Raw material	PP	PP	PP	4MP	4MP	PP	PP	PP	4MP	4MP
Roller materials	rubber / steel	rubber / steel	rubber / steel	rubber / rubber	rubber / steel	steel / steel	steel / steel	steel / steel	steel / steel	steel / steel
Roller temperature (°C)	100	100	100	160	160	70	100	70	90	160
Density (g/cm3) (g/cm^3)	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.83	0.83	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.83	0.83
Fiber diameter (μm)	2.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.2	2.7	2.7	1.8	1.8	1.8
Basis weight (g/m2) (g/m^2)	12	12	20	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Membrane thickness (μm)	25	25	37	28	28	25	17	25	28	18
Porosity	0.47	0.47	0.41	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.22	0.47	0.48	0.20
Maximum pore size (μm)	4.5	3.0	2.5	2.6	1.4	8.2	7.1	5.6	5.5	2.8
Average pore size (μm)	3.6	2.4	1.1	2.4	1.3	5.9	5.1	3.8	3.9	2
Maximum pore size / average pore size	1.25	1.25	2.27	1.08	1.08	1.39	1.39	1.47	1.41	1.40